

PRISM



News & views from Craigmillar Park Church, Edinburgh

A worshipping and caring community, following Jesus Christ

www.craigmillarpark.org

Minister's Letter

Dear friends

How about inviting a friend or a neighbour to one of our special events or activities this October?

One event is about acknowledging grief and loss experienced by many and praying for them; another about celebrating the good things we enjoy while seeking to help others who lack them; another gives an opportunity to explore, discover or re-examine Christian faith, and another celebrates our shared Christian faith with a neighbouring Christian community.

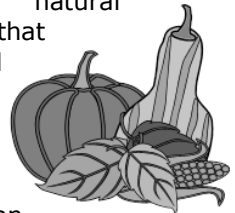
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Sunday (12 Oct)

Edinburgh Presbytery is encouraging all churches to include in their regular worship, prayers of intercession for those affected by the loss of a baby, especially families affected by past practice at Mortonhall Crematorium. So we will be incorporating an act of remembrance and intercessions into our service that day. There will also be two community remembrance services, both to take place at 3pm

that Sunday, one in Morningside Parish Church and one in St Margaret's Parish Church. SANDS (Stillborn and Neonatal Death Society) and SIMBA (Simpson's Memory Box Appeal) information leaflets will be available at these services.

Harvest Thanksgiving (19 Oct) It is good to take time to remember God as the giver of all good things, and on this day we give thanks to God for the natural resources that

sustain life and health and those who work to make them available. That



thanksgiving can lead us to see the part we can play in helping others, particularly those whose share of the good things that make for life and health is less than it should and could be. To play our part depends on our willingness to share what we have been given. We are inviting contributions to two

projects on the day, one abroad and one in Edinburgh:

WaterAid's Harvest Appeal Money given to this charity will go towards helping provide clean water and sanitation to some of the world's poorest people. In Ethiopia, diarrhoea kills 33,000 children every year because of unsafe water and poor sanitation. Extended droughts can also result in hunger, misery and death. Last year, WaterAid reached 1.7 million people with safe water. WaterAid is a registered charity (SC 039479).



The Edinburgh South East Foodbank Donations of non-perishable food items for this local project run by Blythswood Care will provide emergency food and support to people in crisis situations, often those who are denied benefits or experience delays in receiving them. That such things should happen in our society is a social and political scandal, but this does not remove the need to help people practically. Blythswood Care is a registered charity (SC 021848).

We will have a **guest preacher** leading worship on Harvest Sunday: Archie McDowall is Finance Manager (Congregational Finance) for the Church of Scotland, though that's not what he's come to talk about, as he is also a Methodist lay preacher. We will round off the morning with a thanksgiving lunch, organised by the Guild – so many thanks to Julia and her team for providing that.

Our next Alpha Course (starts Wed 22 Oct) Alpha is an introduction to Christianity, used by many churches, that starts by asking: Who is Jesus? The course is designed either for people who don't have Christian faith, but would like to know more about it, or for people who want a refresher course in the faith they already hold. (Also, if you are thinking about becoming enrolled as a member of our church, or of baptism for yourself or someone in your family, then Alpha can often be part of that process.)

Our course looks set to be on a Wednesday evening for about seven weeks, plus one Saturday session. Each evening starts with a meal, allowing people to chat and get to know each other. After the video talk, there's time to ask questions and discuss that week's topic. There is no charge for the course, but churches normally ask for a small contribution towards the meal.

Joint Service with Reid Memorial Church (26 Oct) To end the month, we will again share our morning worship with one of our neighbouring parish churches, this time in our building. So please warmly welcome the Rev Brian Embleton and his congregation.

Please don't forget the **Fresh Start Coffee Morning** on Saturday 25 October, and our weekly **Parents and Toddlers Group** every Saturday from 2-4pm, starting from the first Saturday of this month. Take the opportunity, if you can, to tell people about any or all of these.

John

Church Family News

Congratulations to **Jim and Jean Blaikie** who will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on October 16th.

Ian Bredon and Renate Butler

To celebrate our marriage on 3/10/2014 we intend to hold an informal get-together in the Lounge at Home



Royal House, 2 Chalmers Crescent on Thursday 23 October between 5 and 8pm. You are all welcome. We are not expecting any presents, but if anyone would like to make a donation towards the work of the Street Pastors in Edinburgh it would be very much appreciated. RSVP to Renate - 668 4381 after 9th October.



Shoebox Appeal 2014

I had hoped, after the success of last year's one-week Shoebox Campaign for Blythswood Care, that we could do the same this year and in the future. Unfortunately, new circumstances change that.

First, HM Government has reduced the size of lorry that can be driven on a standard driving licence; the consequence for us is that Blythswood's staff can only move half the number of shoeboxes in each load to and from Craigmillar Park. This will mean fewer shoeboxes delivered each day and twice the number of vehicle journeys required to collect and deliver them. Therefore the large and busy shift system will not work. In addition, my own long-term back problems no longer let me spend 12 hours per day doing much of the heavy work.

My new plan for 2014 is this: that

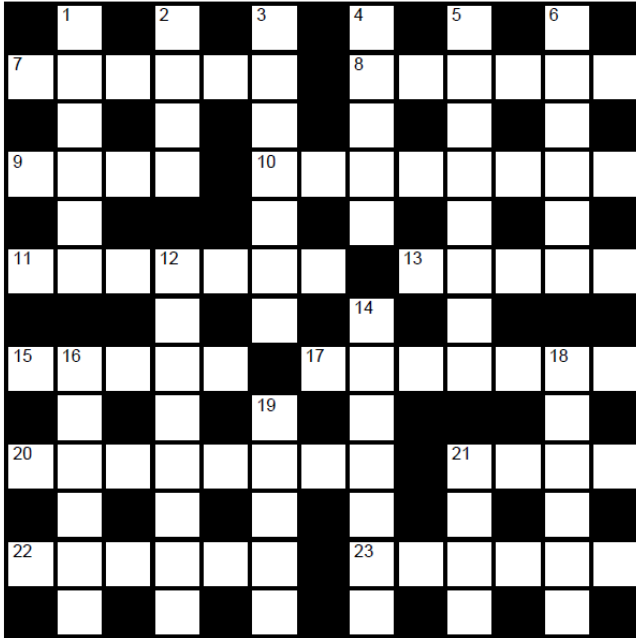
we return to two weeks for the Shoebox Campaign, therefore 10-21 November, but with only two shifts per day, dropping the evening shift! Now, I know that some of our helpers can only come in the evening and I shall be sorry to let them down; but we are certainly going to have fewer boxes available each day. It may be possible to work around this and I'll think of options over the next few weeks. For the moment, please make a note of these dates and times:

**Starting Monday 10 November,
ending Friday 21 November:**

**1st shift 9.30am-12.30pm
2nd shift 1.00pm-4.00pm**

More information on the CPC website; please check it for updates.

Norman Weibye, Convener
shoebox@craigmillarpark.org



Crossword

Agricultural Theme

by Roger Paton



Answers on page 11

Across

- 7** Use **8** and **10 Across** to do this (6)
- 8** Farm implement found at English public school ? (6)
- 9** Produce of cereals etc (4)
- 10** Cart rots away, superseded by these (8)
- 11** Tree with pliant branches (7)
- 13** The next oil bonanza? (5)
- 15** Each urn contains another container (5)
- 17** Posh name for **21 Across** (7)
- 20** I a dealer could give you a terrier (8)
- 21** "The Muckin' o' Geordie's _ _ _ _" song made famous by Andy Stewart (4)
- 22** He's busy on "The Glorious 12th" (6)
- 23** Scots might call it a neep (6)

Down

- 1** You won't come out of this tank smelling of roses! (6)
- 2** You need this to move **1 Down** (4)
- 3** To carve wood neatly (7)
- 4** Wow, heat in part needed for this crop (5)
- 5** Old-fashioned riding gear (8)
- 6** Confused astrologer drops toga to reveal herb (6)
- 12** Reaps (8)
- 14** Woods but not the golfer (7)
- 16** A low-producing cow (6)
- 18** I grew a strange insect ! (6)
- 19** You will find lots of **15 Across** here (5)
- 21** Farm building where you'll find an owl? (4)

Living Landscapes

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." I have always wondered what the writer of Psalm 121 had in mind when he wrote this opening line. I guess, and I hope, he was referring to the spiritual uplift we get when we see a range of hills in the distance or stretching out before us as we reach a hard-earned summit.



This summer I had the wonderful experience of visiting the Swiss Alps with the 162nd Scout Group from Liberton Kirk. The boys literally gasped when they saw these hills rise straight out of the valley and pierce the sky with glistening white peaks. One day a mountain guide from the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg, where we were staying, led us to the top of Bundespitz (2,546m). From this ridge we looked out over the jagged roof of Europe, pushed up 300 million years ago by the collision between the tectonic plates of Asia and Africa.

On the exposed cliffs we could see how the rock had been folded by the tremendous forces at work. Looking down, we stared rather giddily into great U-shaped valleys with their white waterfalls and green meadows. And right down on the floor of the valleys we could see the red roofs of picturesque Swiss Alpine villages.

It's little wonder that Switzerland is so influenced by its towering geography. The hills have made its people fiercely independent, self reliant, inward-looking but democratic – to the point of holding no fewer than 300 national referendums in recent times. In Scotland, we now know a little about referendums and I think we too are influenced by our geography. We are part of an island, but a wild part of the island, closer to the sea and the hills than the rest.

I think we should allow ourselves to be more influenced by our geography. We should be sensitive to where we live, to our hills and coastline, even to our streets and parks and gardens. In the last three or four generations, we have lost touch with the land and I think we are spiritually the poorer for it. Just like those Scouts, we should gasp a little more at our surroundings.

John Knox

Was Zacchaeus "Purer" Than You Thought?

Commentators on the Bible frequently claim that the point of the Zacchaeus story is to illustrate how Jesus can call people who have been particularly bad. Such commentators are arithmetically challenged: the data in the story show that

Zacchaeus was no worse than most of us (and this, I believe, is the whole point of this passage in the Bible). According to Luke, when Jesus called



Zacchaeus to him, Zacchaeus said "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Zacchaeus carefully avoids saying that he has actually swindled anybody. He says "... if I have taken anything...". Since this is the moment of his conversion, it was hardly an appropriate context for weasel words.

Luke tells us nothing about Zacchaeus' wealth, but he does provide us with enough data to determine the maximum proportion of his total wealth that Zacchaeus could have been obtained by swindling people. Suppose that

Zacchaeus' wealth amounted to 800 talents. He is committed giving 400 talents to the poor, leaving him with 400 talents. These 400 talents must be sufficient to cover any claims against him and since he is committed to meeting any such

claim fourfold, he would not be able to keep his promise if the claims amounted to more than 100 talents. He could only keep his promise if he swindled no more

than 100 talents. 100 talents amounts to just one-eighth of Zacchaeus wealth.

Regardless of how much wealth Zacchaeus possessed, this argument still holds. At most one-eighth of Zacchaeus' wealth was obtained by swindling. In other words, the overwhelming proportion, at least seven-eighths, more than 87 per cent, was obtained legitimately. We know that Roman tax collectors were a particularly avaricious lot. So by comparison to his colleagues, Zacchaeus was a paragon of virtue since he resisted the temptation to emulate their rapaciousness. I doubt whether many churchgoers can be sure that they are any better than

Zacchaeus. Was Zacchaeus any worse than the Church of England with its "indirect" investment in the Wonga payday loan company?

In Luke's story, the crowd thought Zacchaeus was bad and they were wrong! It turned out that they were no better than Zacchaeus. Shortly before the Zacchaeus story, Luke recounts Christ's parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, the point of which is that in the eyes of God, the Pharisee is no better than the tax collector. The common interpretation of the Zacchaeus story does not sit easily with this parable. My interpretation of the Zacchaeus explains why Luke juxtaposes the parable of the tax collector and the

story of the real tax collector.

A leading expert on Luke has realized that the data is anomalous and he "explains" this by saying that Zacchaeus was exaggerating. Such "explanations" should be a last resort rather than a first one.

Finally, we note that the name "Zacchaeus" means "pure". My interpretation of the story means that this name makes perfect sense. The common interpretation has to explain away the name as irony.

Peter Thanisch

Photo: Brooklyn Museum - Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Awaiting the Passage of Jesus by James Tissot



Posh Afternoon Teas

Very many thanks to all those who came to one of the afternoon teas at 89 St Alban's Road and gave so generously. Over £700 was raised for Craigmillar Park Church funds.

Molly Longmuir

The Guild

This session has started with a good turnout at our first meeting and some new members. We have a meeting on 14 October with a charity called "Smalls for All" telling us about their work. Then on 28 October we have "Comfort Rwanda"; one of our Guild projects this session. Do come along and join us.

The Guild is going to hold a harvest lunch straight after our Harvest Festival service on 19 October. Do look out on the intimation sheet for details.



Julia Yarker

101st City of Edinburgh Brownies

We have been very busy at Brownies with Big Brownie Birthday events - including taking the girls to celebrate a Scottish fun day at Gleneagles where more than 2,000 Brownies from all over the country enjoyed circus skills workshops, bouncy castles, lego building and ice cream in the rain!

During June, when Commonwealth Games fever was building, we also held a fun sports challenge evening to work towards the 2014 Commonwealth Games Challenge which was created jointly between Guiding/Scouting and the Boys'/Girls' Brigade. One aspect was to hold a joint event with another group; we invited the 139th Braid Scout Group (multi section - Beavers - Scouts) along to an evening which included a mass New Zealand Haka routine. After initial shyness from both groups it was easy to see, by the end of the evening, how well the brother and sister organisations could work together.

We also met up with the 93rd Brownies from Liberton Kirk on our last night before the summer to re-create a photo that we had

discovered in our visit to the Edinburgh Guide archives, of our two packs having an 'egg race' in 1924!

We held a very successful Pack Holiday near St Andrews in early September on the theme of the Big Brownie Birthday, completing various challenges. The

Brownies earned their Cook and Advanced Cook badge - making Rainbow fruit skewers and their own beef burgers!

The leadership team would like to thank the congregation very much for supporting our collection of Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's. Unfortunately, we didn't quite collect enough for our goal of a camera but we have 'banked' some vouchers to give us a head start next year and have booked a session of cheerleading for the girls to enjoy this autumn.

Several of our older girls have now moved onto Guides or pastures new and we are welcoming 6 new girls this week that keeps our Pack at a very healthy 26 members!

June Savage
Brown Owl

Opera Camerata are performing the Count of Luxembourg

at the Churchill Theatre from 8-11 October at 7.30pm, tickets £12

Julie Read is performing in this so please come and support it

Macmillan Coffee Morning



£717.88 was raised at the coffee morning on Friday 26 September

Journey of a Lifetime: Julie's Inca Trail

Julie Read is very grateful to all who supported her on this amazing trek for Marie Curie Edinburgh. To thank you all she is giving a presentation on her journey on Sunday 2 November after the service, along with a soup lunch.

Offers of help to make and serve soup would be appreciated (please contact Julie about this). We will be giving out tickets to establish numbers.

Donations from this lunch and talk will go to church funds.

Congregational Register

Change of Address

Mr Ian Breadon, now at Flat 17, Home Royal House, 2 Chalmers Crescent,
Edinburgh EH9 1TP

Dates For Your Diary

October

- Sun 5 at 10.30am – Morning Worship with Holy Communion after in the chapel**
- Mon 6 at 7.30pm – Workshop on Afro-American Spirituals** Mayfield Salisbury Church
- Tue 7 at 2.30pm – Sing along with your favourite hymns** Upper Hall, Mayfield Salisbury Church
- Wed 8, 7.15-8.15pm – Mark Wong’s Chinese Cooking for Beginners**
- Sat 11 at 2pm – Parents and Toddlers Group** in Church Hall
- Sun 12 at 10.30am – Morning Worship (Pregnancy & Infant Loss Sunday)**
- Sat 18 at 2pm – Parents and Toddlers Group** in Church Hall
- Sun 19 at 10.30am – Harvest with Thanksgiving Lunch afterwards** with guest preacher, Archie McDowall
- Tue 21 at 7.45pm – Overflowing Grace** Bible study at the manse on 2 Cor 9:6-15
- Wed 22 at 7pm – Alpha course begins**
- Sat 25, 10am-12 noon – Fresh Start Coffee Morning** in Church Hall
- Sat 25 at 2pm – Parents and Toddlers Group** in Church Hall
- Sun 26 at 10.30am – Joint Morning Worship with Reid Memorial Church at CPC**
- Sun 26 at 7pm – Psalms and Spirituals** Mayfield Salisbury Church

November

- Sun 2 at 10.30am – Morning Worship** (No Holy Communion till next week)
- Sun 2 – Soup lunch and talk by Julie Read about the Inca trail** in Church Hall
- Sun 2 at 3.15pm – Christian Worship at St Margaret’s Care Home**
- Wed 5 at 7.30pm – NCT Praying Together** St Columba’s Hall, Upper Gray St
- Sun 9 at 10.30am – Morning Worship for Remembrance** with Holy Communion after in the chapel
- Mon 10-Fri 21 – Blythswood Shoeboxes sorting**
- Wed 12 at 7.30pm – The Kirk Session** meets in the chapel
- Sun 16 at 10.30am – Morning Worship**
- Sun 13 at 10.30am – Morning Worship**
- Thu 27 at 7 for 7.30pm – Cameron Toll Chaplaincy AGM** Faith Mission, 548 Gilmerton Rd
- Sun 30 at 10.30am – Morning Worship for Advent Sunday**

Duties

5th & 12th October – Convener: Roger Paton (664 2877)

Flora Paton, Christine Thomson, Miriam Weibye, Norman Weibye, Pauline Weibye, Seonaid Wilson

19th & 26th October – Convener: Isabel Smith

Julia Yarker, Colin Aitken, Ian Breadon, Renate Butler, David Cargill, Kathleen Cockerell

2nd & 9th November – Convener: Sheena Stenhouse (667 4520)

John Kelly, Betty Laing, Harry Laing, Sandra Lamb, Julie Read, Katy Ruggeri

	Reader	Sound	Church Officer
Oct 2014			
5th	Astrid Gracie	Norman Weibye	Norman Weibye
12th	Ruth Longmuir	Christopher McLeod	Julia Yarker
19th	Norman Weibye	John Kelly	Roger Paton
26th	Pauline Weibye	David Topping	Ian Breadon
Nov 2014			
2nd	Julie Read	Danny McQueen	Julia Yarker
9th	David Cargill	Norman Weibye	Roger Paton
16th	Roger Paton	Christopher McLeod	Norman Weibye
23rd	John Humphrey	John Kelly	Ian Breadon
30th	Miriam Weibye	David Topping	Julia Yarker

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Clues Across: (7) Plough, (8) Harrow, (9) Crop, (10) Tractors, (11) Wychelm, (113) Shale, (15) Churn, (17) Cowshed, (20) Airedale, (21) Byre, (22) Beater, (23) Turnip

Clues Down: (1) Slurry, (2) Pump, (3) Whittle, (4) Wheat, (5) Britches, (6) Sorrel, (12) Harvests, (14) Forests, (16) Heifer, (18) Earwig, (19) Dairy, (21) Barn

Coming up at Stewart House Men's Club in October...

3rd—Opening Meeting

10th—*Bright Care and the Care Provision Market*, Tim Cocking

17th—*From Beijing to the Gobi Desert Overland*, Fred Daniels

24th—*Defence of the Realm*, Richard Phillips

31st—*On Top of a Bus*, Murray Chalmers

Fridays at 10.15am in the Church Hall. Coffee £1.50. Visitors welcome.

Who's Who at Craigmillar Park Church

Minister	Rev John Urquhart	14 Hallhead Road, 0131 667 1623 minister@craigmillarpark.org
Session Clerk	Pauline Weibye	0131 668 3545 session@craigmillarpark.org
Treasurer & Depute Session Clerk	Christopher McLeod	0131 667 1475 treasurer@craigmillarpark.org
Roll Keeper	Roger Paton	0131 664 2877 rollkeeper@craigmillarpark.org
Chairman Congregational Board	John Kelly	0131 663 2428 board@craigmillarpark.org
Caring Service	Christine Thomson	0131 667 5145
Organist	Edward Cuthbert	organist@craigmillarpark.org
Prism Editor	Ruth Longmuir	07754 952 297 prism@craigmillarpark.org
Hall Letting	Norman Weibye	0131 668 3545 lettings@craigmillarpark.org
Church Website	www.craigmillarpark.org	webmaster@craigmillarpark.org

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of future editions of Prism please send an email to prism@craigmillarpark.org and we'll add you to our distribution list.

CPC is a registered Scottish charity, Scottish Charity No: SC 017061